



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

21 DECEMBER 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) San Diego – Victims Rescued in San Diego County Human Trafficking Operation

(U) A 16-year-old girl and 11 women were recovered during a two-day human trafficking operation in San Diego County that also resulted in the arrests of five men and woman on a variety of charges, authorities announced. "Operation Home for the Holidays" was conducted on 14-15 December. It was aimed at recovering juvenile victims and involved detectives from the San Diego County Sheriff's Department working undercover looking for online ads of suspected juveniles.

SOURCE: 18 December 2020, [NBC 7 San Diego](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Libyan Man Charged in US for 1988 Pan Am 103 Bombing

(U) Washington DC – Libyan national Abu Agila Mohammad Masud has been charged in a US court in relation to the 1988 Pan Am Flight 103 bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people. The Libyan intelligence officer faces two criminal counts over the bombing. In 2001, another Libyan intelligence officer, Abdelbaset al-Megrahi, was convicted for participation in attack; he was given a life sentence, but was released on humanitarian grounds in 2009 due to suffering prostate cancer. He later died in Tripoli. Most victims on the London to New York flight were American citizens. Last week, US media reported that Mohammad Masud was in custody in Libya and that outgoing US attorney general, Bill Barr, was seeking his extradition to the US to stand trial.

SOURCE: 21 December 2020, [Sky News](#)

(U) District of Columbia – FBI, Interpol Disrupt Online Criminal Marketplace

(U) Washington DC – Officials from the FBI and Interpol have seized a small number of servers used by Joker's Stash, the internet's largest marketplace for buying & selling stolen payment cards, temporarily disrupting the site's activity. Interpol described the server seizures as an ongoing "coordinated police operational activity." Seizure banners appeared on four Joker's Stash sites, at [jstash.bazar](#), [jstash.lib](#), [jstash.emc](#), and [jstash.coin](#). The Joker's Stash portal has been operating since October 2014, and often posts packs of stolen payment card details that can be used for both CP (card present) and CNP (card not present) fraudulent transactions.

SOURCE: 18 December 2020, [ZD Net](#)

(U) Florida – International Task Force Seizes \$64 Million in Cocaine

(U) Miami – Seven suspected drug smuggling vessels were apprehended by the US Coast Guard, US Navy, federal agency teams from the US Customs and Border Protection, Air and Marine Operations, and the Dutch Caribbean coast guard. The drug busts happened over 10 days near the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico in the Eastern Caribbean, the Coast Guard announced Friday. According to the Coast Guard's Seventh District in Miami, the busts resulted in more than 3,700-pounds of cocaine, worth more than \$64 million by their estimation, and the capture of 19 suspected drug smugglers.

SOURCE: 18 December 2020, [Miami Herald](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) New York – Zoom Executive Charged with Disrupting Tiananmen Crackdown Commemorations

(U) New York City – US prosecutors on Friday charged a China-based executive at Zoom Video Communications Inc. with disrupting video meetings commemorating the 31st anniversary of the Tiananmen Square crackdown at the request of the Chinese government. Xinjiang Jin, 39, faces up to 10-years in prison if convicted of conspiring since January 2019 to use his company's systems to censor speech, the US Department of Justice said. A spokesman for Zoom said it is reviewing the complaint. Jin is not in US custody.

SOURCE: 18 December 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Austria – Two Suspects Arrested Linked to November 2020 Terror Attack

(U) Vienna – An Austrian of Afghan descent whose DNA was allegedly found on the weapon that a jihadist used to kill four people in Vienna last month has been arrested, prosecutors said yesterday. Police shot dead the 20-year-old gunman, whom Austrian authorities have described as an Islamist terrorist, during his rampage in the center of the Austrian capital in early November. Austria had already arrested 15 people in connection with the attack. Authorities in Germany and Switzerland are also investigating people they suspect had ties to the shooter.

SOURCE: 20 December 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) Germany – Extremist Convicted of Murder After Synagogue Attack

(U) Berlin – A German court convicted a right-wing extremist of murder and attempted murder today and sentenced him to life in prison for his attack on a synagogue in 2019 on Yom Kippur, Judaism's holiest day. He killed two people after he failed to gain entry to the building. The October 2019 attack is considered one of the worst anti-Semitic assaults in Germany's post-war history. Stephan Balliet posted a screed against the Jewish community before trying to shoot his way into the synagogue in the eastern city of Halle while broadcasting the attack live on a popular gaming site.

SOURCE: 21 December 2020, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Somalia – Al-Shabaab Claims Responsibility for Bombing

(U) Mogadishu – A suicide bomber attacked a stadium in Somalia's central city of Galkayo Friday, killing 15 people shortly before the arrival of the country's new prime minister, according to police. Somalia's al-Shabaab jihadist rebels have claimed responsibility for the bombing, according to the group's Andalus radio station.

SOURCE: 18 December 2020, [Associated Press](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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